TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, November 10, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended November 5 totaled an estimated 20.2 billion ton-miles, up 2.3 percent from the 19.8 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 44 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 847.6 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.3 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended November 5 totaled 456,694, up 2.5 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and up 0.5 percent from the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 4.7 percent in the West, and 0.6 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of metallic ores increased by 4,972 cars (26.9 percent), and chemicals and allied products were up 2,421 cars (9.3 percent). Thirteen of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended October 29 totaled 125,498 trailers and/or containers, up 7.6 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 43 weeks of the year was 4,783,116 trailers and/or containers, up 5.8 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 11/5/88:

	Loadings in Week ended November 5, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,332	D	288	0.9	I	2,294	7.9
Other farm products	3,194	D	865	21.3	D	216	6.3
Metallic ores	23,446	I	4,972	26.9	D	2,047	8.0
Coal	131,146	I	632	0.5	I	5,454	4.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	18,433	I	394	2.2	D	651	3.4
Nonmetallic minerals	10,154	I	703	7.4	D	553	5.2
Grain mill products	11,099	D	128	1.1	I	312	2.9
Food and kindred products	11,934	D	301	2.5	I	260	2.2
Primary forest products	9,584	D	516	5.1	D	5	0.05
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,275	D	325	4.3	D	676	8.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,671	D	192	1.6	D	44	0.4
Chemicals and allied products	28,473	I	2,421	9.3	I	75	0.3
Petroleum products	5,218	I	407	8.5	D	22	0.4
Stone, clay and glass products	11,512	D	126	1.1	D	118	1.0
Coke	5,595	D	313	5.3	D	375	6.3
Metals and products	9,830	D	1,069	9.8	D	754	7.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	23,277	I	1,665	7.7	I	275	1.2
Waste and scrap materials	9,793	D	178	1.8	D	290	2.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,585	D	405	13.5	I	70	2.9
All other carloads	91,143	I	4,857	5.6	D	839	0.9
Total Cars Loaded	456,694	I	11,345	2.5	I	2,150	0.5
Corresponding week of 1987	445,349						

	1988	1987	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (44 weeks)	18,802,900	17,993,317	I	4.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
43 weeks ended October 29	827.4	778.0	I	6.4
Week ended November 5	20.2	19.8	I	2.3
44 Weeks cumulative	847.6	797.7	I	6.3

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